

**TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**May 11, 2006 MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic & Transportation Committee was held in the City Council Chambers, 275 East Olive Avenue, on the above date. Michael Flad, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

<b>Members Present:</b>	Michael Flad, Chair Sam Asheghian Gary Bric Hank Jannace David Kriske	Brian Malone Rene Salas Sgt. Tracy Sanchez Joseph Spaulding Joe Terranova, Vice Chair
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**Members Absent:** Donald Farquhar, Gregory Scher

**Staff Present:** Terre Hirsch – License & Code Administrator  
Ken Johnson – Traffic Engineer, Public Works  
Jeanne Keeler – Parking Analyst, Public Works  
Karen McMurray – Administrative Analyst, Public Works  
Jacqui Batayneh – Recording Secretary, Public Works

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2006 meeting with an amendment to Item III, Report C as follows: Mr. Terranova asked if staff is responsible for providing traffic studies to the public. A request was made to amend the minutes to reflect Gary Bric's attendance at the March 9, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Flad requested that Item I on the May 11, 2006 agenda be taken out of order for the purpose of public oral communications. Mr. Malone requested that future minutes be given to City Council and Traffic and Transportation Committee members within ten days of the meeting's adjournment; with the agenda and staff reports to follow no later than 72 hours prior to the following meeting.

**II. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic & Transportation Committee)

**A. Public**

Residents spoke in opposition of the Large Vehicle Prohibition, and had suggestions for the committee to consider before presenting a final recommendation to Council. Speakers addressing the committee were as follows: Dennis Hooper, Duane Beekman, Ron Bax, Tom Strasser, Joe Gage, Marina Bredda, Jan Maurer, Jane Harrington, David Nos, Stan Hyman, Molly Hyman, Phil Saleen, Carol Ordelheide, Ronald Guton, LaVerne Thomas, Marti Townsend, Kathryn Smither, Leslie Jones, Kardy Fenyvesi, A.L. Peters, Gary Stevens, Jeff Winn, Marlee Edge, Sheila Harmer, Shelley Herman, Dick Talbert, Mal Kelman, John Caruso, and Jim Elmlinger. Residents suggested revising the Burbank Municipal Code, stating that the average recreational vehicle is 30-35 feet in length which cannot be located in the front yard setback area. Residents informed the committee that recreational vehicle storage facilities are limited as well as costly, and getting vehicles from storage areas to their homes can be inconvenient and time consuming. Several residents requested a permanent permit issued to recreational vehicle owners allowing flexibility for street parking. Residents suggested that the committee be more specific when identifying recreational vehicles, differentiating between commercial vehicles, horse trailers and motor homes. Some residents spoke on behalf of horse owners who have trailers parked in the Burbank Rancho area.

These residents suggested excluding horse trailers from the prohibition since they are used for emergency transportation of horses in need of medical attention or in times of disaster.

#### B. Committee Members/Staff

Mr. Johnson introduced new committee member Rene Salas, Assistant Public Works Director of Streets and Sanitation; taking the seat vacated by Mr. Rahmani. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that the recommendation for the large vehicle parking prohibition initially began as a complaint to City Council by a resident. Mr. Terranova added that neighbors of a few residents issued complaints because recreational vehicles were left on City streets for extended periods of time. Mr. Johnson clarified that the Traffic and Transportation Committee is an advisory committee that makes recommendations for the City Council, who are the legislation enacting body for Burbank. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that the recommendation for large vehicle prohibition would restrict large vehicle parking between 2:00AM and 6:00AM, and includes a nominal permit fee for residents, to allow temporary parking for loading and unloading. Mr. Malone informed the committee that the recommendation has not been scheduled for Council at this time. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that the recommendation does not restrict large recreational vehicles from parking on private property. Mr. Bric stated that it is impossible to see past recreational vehicles which are parked on street corners. Mr. Bric suggested clarifying the Burbank Municipal Code, sections 29 and 31. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that section 29 deals with public right of way, while section 31 of the BMC deals with private property. Mr. Malone stated that the committee's main goal is the welfare and safety of the citizens in Burbank. Mr. Flad stated that the Traffic and Transportation Committee is a hybrid board and a recommending body which desires to meet the needs of all Burbank residents, and appreciates the public's input. Mr. Flad requested that a sub-committee be formed to meet with recreational vehicle owners before taking a recommendation to Council. Mr. Johnson offered to meet with interested parties to further discuss options to the recreational vehicle parking restrictions.

**A motion was made by Brian Malone and seconded by Gary Bric to set up a sub-committee to look at and review setback requirements and bring back a report to the committee. All in favor.**

The committee took a short recess. Joseph Spaulding did not return for the rest of the Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. Johnson requested postponement of items E, F and G on the agenda until the July 13, 2006 meeting. Mr. Flad requested discussion of agenda item E at the present meeting.

**A motion was made and seconded to move agenda items F and G to the July 13, 2006 meeting agenda. All in favor.**

#### C. Second Public Oral

Mr. Johnson reported that Los Angeles County informed him earlier in the day that the County is changing its rules and regulations for emergency vehicle services. Mr. Johnson requested that staff have time to gather more information on the ambulance service issues before proceeding with Items C and D on the agenda. The committee agreed to hear presentations from James McNeal, German Gonzalez and David Malintyan on agenda items C and D. Mr. McNeal gave the committee a packet of information regarding the concerns of the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Systems Agency. Mr. McNeal informed the committee that two companies have been indicted for fraud and other crimes. Mr. McNeal included a list that the County uses to ensure ambulance companies remain law abiding organizations. German Gonzalez spoke on behalf of Prime Medical Transportation (PMT). Mr. Gonzalez stated that PMT is licensed from the City of Los Angeles and

would like to provide ambulance and critical care service in the City of Burbank. Mr. Gonzalez stated that PMT has grown vastly in the past three years and has a medical director on staff. David Malintsyan represented ENOVA, also licensed in the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Malintsyan reported that ENOVA would like a license to operate in the City of Burbank and already has facilities in the City willing to use ENOVA transportation system. Mr. Johnson reported that he has letters from two facilities which support ENOVA ambulance services. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that notifications will be sent to the ambulance companies when sufficient information is gathered to proceed with the certifications of convenience and necessity.

Steve Neimand spoke on behalf of seven defendants, taxi cab drivers involved in a lawsuit with Mr. Matthews from People's Taxi. Mr. Neimand stated that Mr. Matthews fired all seven defendants and refused to give back their vehicle titles, disallowing them to work as taxicab drivers. Mr. Neimand asked the committee to take this into consideration before allowing People's Taxi to operate in the City of Burbank. Tri-City Transportation representatives, Jim Kipper and John Gantus, advised the committee that Tri-City Transportation has excellent customer service and would like to continue serving the City of Burbank. Mr. Kipper and Mr. Gantus asked that the 60 permits up for renewal be distributed to Tri-City Transportation. Jonathan Christman, representing the single taxicab franchise in San Bernardino, asked the committee to consider wisely before allowing more taxicab companies to operate in the City. Mr. Christman advised the committee that competition does not necessarily make a better situation. Herb Abrams and Albert Matthews spoke on behalf of People's Taxi, asking the committee to grant People's Taxi 20 permits of operation in the City of Burbank. Mr. Abrams and Mr. Matthews requested giving cab users a choice and not allowing a taxicab monopoly in the City. Mr. Matthews stated that People's Taxi offers excellent service in Glendale and Azusa and would like the opportunity to operate in the City of Burbank.

Resident, LaVerne Thomas, expressed concerns regarding taxicab safety and requested a flat cab rate for seniors. Ms. Thomas also requested that staff address traffic and pedestrian signal safety issues on the Chandler Bikeway.

Scott Scozzola, representing De Bell Golf Course, spoke in favor of retaining the Walnut Avenue parking restrictions as they are currently posted. Mr. Scozzola advised the committee that the signs keep the area contained to minimum traffic at night.

### **III. REPORTS**

#### **A. Taxi Cab Report – Terre Hirsch**

Mr. Hirsch advised the committee that there are two basic complaint systems used to regulate taxicab service. Both License and Code Services and the cab companies investigate complaints. Mr. Hirsch informed the committee that one complaint was registered for a falsified license and it was successfully prosecuted. Mr. Hirsch advised the committee that the City is looking into issuing taxicab licenses with corporate seals to protect against license forgery. Mr. Hirsch informed the committee that City of Burbank follows the City of Los Angeles when adding or eliminating the taxicab surcharge. If the gasoline prices stay at \$3.28 for a one month period the surcharge will rise to \$1.00. Currently the taxicab surcharge is \$.50. Mr. Flad asked if the surcharge is applicable to CNG or Hybrid taxicabs. Mr. Hirsch informed the committee that he will check with the City of Los Angeles and return with more information regarding CNG and Hybrid cabs. Mr. Bric asked if the cab surcharge can be incorporated into the flag drop. Mr. Hirsch informed the committee that the flag drop charges and surcharges cannot be incorporated because they are two separate items. Mr. Flad asked how cab safety is ensured. Mr. Hirsch reported that finger printing and drug testing is required for all cab drivers. Cab drivers are also tested on following verbal directions in English and reading maps. Mr. Hirsch informed the committee that the Burbank Police Department performs a safety check on all

taxicab vehicles. Each taxicab also requires a rate card which includes the City's License and Code Services phone number to report a complaint or safety issue.

**B. Public Hearing to Certify the Public Convenience and Necessity for Taxicab Operations in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 ( People's Taxi and Tri-City Transportation) – Ken Johnson**

Mr. Ashegian recused himself from this discussion. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that the Burbank Municipal Code requires that all persons that operate a taxicab as a vehicle for hire in Burbank must receive 1) a permit from License and Code Services and 2) a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that 120 permits are issued in a three year cycle, with 60 permits currently available. The committee must now decide who will receive the 60 available permits. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that Tri-City Transportation merged with City Cab and is now one company with all 120 permits of which 60 are up for renewal. Staff feels that 120 permits is an adequate amount to serve the City. Mr. Johnson reported that staff has no further recommendation.

**A motion was made by Mr. Malone and seconded by Mr. Terranova that 120 taxi permits are appropriate for taxicab operation in the City of Burbank. All in favor.**

Mr. Bric informed the committee that he is satisfied with the current taxicab service provided by Tri-City Transportation. Mr. Terranova agreed that Tri-City Transportation has provided good service in Burbank with no major problems. Mr. Malone advised the committee that the existing taxicab system operates very effectively in Burbank and is in favor of giving Tri-City Transportation all 60 permits. Mr. Flad feels that good service and cost efficiency is an extremely important factor. Mr. Flad feels that People's Taxi could have shown the committee that their service is above and beyond the current taxicab service provider.

**A motion was made by Mr. Bric and seconded by Mr. Terranova to retain the 60 taxicab permits currently with Tri-City Transportation. All in favor**

**E. Chandler Boulevard Traffic and Pedestrian Safety – Ken Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reported that the initial study of the one way operation was inconclusive. A one way pair reduced traffic congestion at major intersections, but increased travel time and distance for the local residents. City Council was divided in their direction for further study, so staff was directed to collect further data on the opinions of the residents. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that a significant opposition, in regards to one way operation, was raised by many residents of the area around Chandler Boulevard. Former mayor Vander Borcht decided to terminate the directive for further study and to conclude the investigation into a one way pair operation on Chandler Boulevard. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that the final report to City Council is scheduled for June 6, 2006. Mr. Malone asked if programmable lenses are an option that can be discussed. Mr. Johnson informed the committee that given the parameters, and the close proximity of the two intersections, the options available are limited. Mr. Ashegian asked if an underground crossing was ever considered as an option. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that the City must ensure that the MTA right of way is intact and available. Mr. Terranova and Mr. Malone expressed disappointment with Council's decision to conclude the investigation into a one way pair operation on Chandler Boulevard. Mr. Malone added that safety is still an issue. Mr. Bric suggested placing a pedestrian count down signal at the intersection. Mr. Johnson and Sgt. Sanchez agreed that a flashing count down signal would be an ideal option for consideration.

#### **H. No Parking Signs on Walnut Avenue – Ken Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reported that several residents complained to the Parks and Recreation Board about parking restrictions at the east end of Walnut Avenue near Wildwood Park. The individuals wish to bicycle in the canyons late at night, but must park near the De Bell club house. The residents requested the item be discussed by the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that staff recommends that the parking restrictions be retained as they currently are posted, no parking between 10 PM and 5 AM. Ms. Bartolo informed the committee that a few people enjoy mountain biking at night and would like to be closer to their

vehicles should there be an emergency. Ms. Bartolo advised the committee that the City does not necessarily have jurisdiction on all the fire trails near the De Bell golf course. Ms. Bartolo suggested possibly issuing restrictive permits similar to an Adventure Pass. A restrictive permit would allow cyclists to park closer to the De Bell club house and continue to keep overnight parking under control. Mr. Bric asked what would happen if a private party is booked at the De Bell club house. Ms. Bartolo informed the committee that permits have been requested by only a few cyclists, and that most concessions do not usually stay open past 10 PM. Mr. Flad suggested revisiting this issue when the new De Bell clubhouse is completed.

**A motion was made and seconded to table the issue of parking restrictions on Walnut Avenue. All in favor.**

#### **IV. OTHER BUSINESS – None**

Mr. Malone and Mr. Bric requested that Council and the Traffic and Transportation Committee receive a copy of the minutes within ten days of each meeting's adjournment. Mr. Bric also requested that the Traffic and Transportation Committee minutes be made available at Council meetings and that the committee liaison announce what topics will be discussed at the next Traffic and Transportation meeting. Mr. Kriske requested a special study session to be held on June 1, 2006 to discuss the draft mobility, land use elements of the General Plan and environmental impact report before the close of the public review period. Mr. Flad requested placing the flag salute on the agenda.

#### **V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Enova Medical Response to provide ambulance services in Burbank.
- Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Prime-Medical Transportation, Inc. to provide ambulance services in Burbank.
- Parking Restrictions on Freeway Overpasses
- San Fernando Blvd./ Magnolia Blvd. Traffic Congestion

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer

KJ:jb